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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,317	07/09/2003	Kenji Yamane	MOC03 P378	1884
277	7590	12/19/2003	EXAMINER	
PRICE HENEVELD COOPER DEWITT & LITTON 695 KENMOOR, S.E. P O BOX 2567 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501			GRAY, DAVID M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2851		

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PF

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/616,317	YAMANE, KENJI
Examiner	Art Unit	
David M Gray	2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2003.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,3,5,7-13 and 15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2,4,6,14 and 16 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7/9/03. 6) Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Yokota et al.

The claimed “photo metering window” is met by opening 10a, which is located “on the front face of the camera.” The claimed “condenser lens” is met by condenser lens 5. Photosensor 6meets the claimed “light receiving element.” The claimed “light shield mask” is met by stop plate 4 which intercepts light outside of photometry range A.

Regarding claims 3, 5 and 7, the opening 10a is arranged on the front surface of the camera and thus “is arranged to face the lens barrel” and “close to the outer surface of the lens barrel.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota et al. in view of Japanese publication 11-002853.

Yokota et al. differs from the claimed invention in that Yokota et al. does not specify that the light shield mask, stop 4, is made from an “elastic” material.

Japanese publication 11-002853 teaches forming a light shield mask from elastic black rubber. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to make the stop from elastic black rubber. One would have been motivated to use elastic black rubber in order to absorb any stray light rays striking the light shield mask.

Allowable Subject Matter

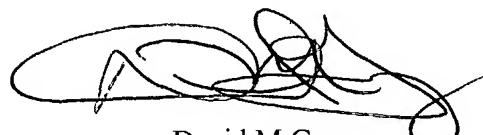
Claims 2, 4, 6, 14 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not disclose or suggest the "light shield mask has an opening with an edge" defined by "a circular arc and a part along a chord of the circular arc" in combination with the remaining claim elements as in claims 2, 4, 6, 14 and 16.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M Gray whose telephone number is 703-308-1698, **the phone number will change to 571-272-2119 after 1/29/2004**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W & F 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on 703-308-2847, **the phone number will change to 571-272-2112 after 1/29/2004**.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306, **please call before faxing after 1/29/2004**.



David M Gray
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851